(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir. The targets ceilings fixed for export of sugar and foodgrains during the current financial year are as under:

		(lakh tonnes)
i)	Sugar	5.295
ii)	Wheat	8.40
iii)	Wheat products	1.00
iv)	Non-Basmati Rice	7.25
v)	Basmati Rice	On OGL with no ceiling.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Funding of Hospital by U.S.A for Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

963. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Carbide Corporation, USA has given an offer for funding a hospital in India for the victims of 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). In its Judgement of the 3rd October, 1991, the Supreme Court had inter alia directed the setting up of a specialised hospital in Bhopal for the victims of the Gas Leak Disaster and expressed the hope that Union Carbide Corporation would fund it. According to reports in the Press, Union Carbide Corporation is willing to provide Rs. 50 crores (approx. US $ 19 million), towards construction and operation of the hospital.

Production of Gas based Vehicles

964. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposals for producing vehicles that can cause little or no pollution by the use of compressed natural gas instead of petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would insist on the conversion of the present vehicles gradually into gas based vehicles; and

(d) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

More Fertiliser Factories

965. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some more fertiliser factories in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following major projects have been identified to be set up in the Public and Cooperative Sector during the 8th Plan;

(i) Expansion of Vijaipur Plant of National Fertilizers Ltd.

(ii) Expansion of Aonla Plant of IFFCO.

(iii) A grass-root ammonia/urea plant by KRIBHCO on the HBJ pipeline.

(iv) Expansion of Hazira plant of KRIBHCO.

(v) Expansion of Thal plant of RCF.

The above proposals would require the clearance of the Planning Commission.

[English]

Development of Coir Industry in Kerala

966. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the development of coir industry in Kerala; and

(b) the welfare measures proposed for coir workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) The Coir Board, with the assistance of the Central Government, has been implementing various programmes for the development of coir industry in Kerala. Some of the programmes are:-

(i) Centrally sponsored scheme for co-operativisation in coir industry.

(ii) Rebate scheme for market development.

(iii) Foreign publicity and market promotion programmes.

(iv) Construction of pucca worksheds.

(v) Research and Development programmes for improving productivity and introduction of modified equipments.

(vi) Collection of statistics and conducting of surveys etc.

(b) Welfare of coir workers has been getting due attention of the Government. A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been provided during the current year's Budget for that purpose.

Purchase of Free Sale Sugar

967. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills in Karnataka have started rejecting the tenders for purchase of free sale sugar in weekly auctions;

(b) if so, the main reasons for taking such a decisions